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Message Text

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44
ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02

ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 AGR-10 /142 W
---------- 012947
R 170054Z JAN 76
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5387
INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 0148

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNDP, EAID
SUBJ: 21ST UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL - ITEM 9(A), ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS OF AFRICA AND ADJACENT AREAS

1. SUMMARY: THIS ITEM WAS INTRODUCED BY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR DOO KINGUE. TWENTY-THREE COUNTRIES AND ONE OBSERVER PARTICIPATED IN THE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS. THE CENTRAL ISSUE WAS THE OVERRIDING NEED TO INTEGRATE AND COORDINATE LONG-TERM INVESTMENT. LEADERSHIP BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL WAS PRAISED. ADMINISTRATOR MORSE CONFIRMED THAT THE SPECIAL SAHELIAN OFFICE PROGRAM HAD BEEN RECENTLY FULLY INTEGRATED INTO UNDP ACTIVITIES.

2. THE DOCUMENTATION FOR THIS ITEM IS CONTAINED IN DP/164. THE ITEM WAS INTRODUCED BY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA DOO KINGUE WHO DEALTH FRANKLY WITH THE ISSUES OF DROUGHT IN BOTH EAST AND WEST AFRICA. HE RESPONDED TO AND WITH FACTS AND FIGURES EFFECTIVELY REFUTED THE CHARGES IN THE RECENT REPORT BY THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR PEACE WITH REGARD TO
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THE RESPONSE BY THE UN SYSTEM AND OTHERS TO THE EARLIER

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INTENSIVE DROUGHT IN ETHIOPIA. HE SAID THAT MEASURES
TO OVERCOME SHORT-TERM STARVATION AND RELATED SUFFERING
IN THE SUB-SAHARA WERE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN IN THE EARLY
1970'S BUT CAUTIONED THAT RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN THE RAINFALL
IN THE SAHEL AND CERTAIN PARTS OF EAST AFRICA SHOULD NOT
PROMPT UNDUE OPTIMISM. HE WELCOMED THE EFFORTS TO COORDINATE
LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN THE SAHEL.
DOO DINGUE EMPAHSIZED THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ASSISTANCE
TO DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS WAS IN GOOD MEASURE DEPENDENT ON
THE ACTIONS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS.

3. TWENTY-THREE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNDP AND ONE OBSERVER
(ROMANIA) SPOKE IN THE SUBSEQUENT DEBATE. SOMALIA AND
CHAD DIFFERED WITH THE MORE OPTIMISTIC ANALYSIS OF THEIR
COUNTRIES' SITUATION CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT DP/164 AND
CALLED ATTENTION TO THE LETHAL IMPACT OF LOCUSTS RESULT-
ING FROM MORE ABUNDANT RAINS IN THE HITHERTO DROUGHT
STRICKEN AREAS. NIGER, MALI AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC EMPHASIZED THAT THEY FOUND IT INCREASINGLY
DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH THEIR DROUGHT PROBLEMS IN THE
FACE OF THE SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN THEIR BALANCE OF
PAYMENTS POSITIONS SINCE EARLY 1974.

4. THE NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, BELGIUM AND THE US UNDER-
SCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL
IN SHAPING A COHERENT AND DONOR-RECIPIENT COORDINATED
LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. THEY POINTED OUT THAT
THE TRANSFORMATION OF RIVER BASINS, TRANSPORTATION,
HEALTH AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS REQUIRE ADEQUATE
INVESTMENT OVER A LONG INTERVAL OF TIME.
THEY PRASIED THE ENERGETIC AND EFFECTIVE INVOLVEMENT
OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OECD DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
COMMITTEE AND IN THIS CONTEXT SAID THAT THE MEETING
OF DONOR AFRICAN STATES IN MID-MARCH 1976 COULD BE A SIGNI-
FICANT MILESTONE. IN A BRIEF INTERVENTION, ADMINISTRATOR
MORSE NOTED THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE SPECIAL SAHELIAN
OFFICE (PREVIOUSLY UNDER HIS JURISDICTION AS UNDER
SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AFFAIRS) AND THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT NOUAKCHOTT
IN DECEMBER 1975 TO INTEGRATE THIS PROGRAM INTO THE ONGOING
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ACTIVITIES OF THE UNDP.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DROUGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00148
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760018-1022
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760146/aaaabooq.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <09 NOV 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 21ST UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL - ITEM 9(A), ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS OF AFRICA AND ADJACENT AREAS
TAGS: EAID, UNDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
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